Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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TAGS: PFOR, PORG, OAU
SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS - OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING,
LOME, FEBRUARY 22-26

REF: STATE 032906

COMMENTS ON ISSUES LISTED IN STATE 032906 *9))92:

A. SOUTHER AFRICA (PARA 3.A., 3.E., AND 4.A. STATE 032906): GOS 'S OBJECTIVE HAS BEEN TO MAINTAIN ITS CREDENTIALS AS UNSWERVING OPPONENT OF RACISM IN SOUTHER AFRICA AND TO BACK THE MOST RADICAL-APPEARING AFRICAN ELEMENTS. HOWEVER, WITH NOTED EXCEPTION OF ANGOLA, IN WHICH ALGERIAN SUPPORT TO MPLA WAS TANGIBLE, ALGERIANS HAVE PREFERRED TO CONFINE THEMSELVES TO PROPAGANDA FRONT. THUS, WHILE BOUMEDIENE AND BOUTEFLIKA WERE AT PAINS TO CONGRATULATE FRONT LINE STATES ON LUSAKA DECLARATION "REJECTING" U.S. PEACE INITIATIVE LAST SEPTEMBER (UY ALGIERS 2318), AND WHILE OFFICIAL MEDIA LOSE NO CHANCE TO EXPRESS SKEPTICISM AT WESTERN EFFORTS IN SOUTHERN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AFRICAN, WE DOUBT ALGERIANS WILL ACTIVELY OPPOSE PEACE INITIATIVES.

B. SAHARA: ALGERIANS WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR HOLDING OF SUMMIT ON SAHARA. WE HAVE IMPRESSION, HOWEVER, THAT THEY ARE NOT GIVING AFRICANS AS HIGH PRESSURE TREATMENT AS THEY HAVE DONE IN RECENT PAST AND THAT MUCH OF LEGWORK IS BEING LEFT TO POLISARIO.

PERHAPS, AS MOROCCANS SUGGEST, AFRICAN SUPPORT FOR POLISARIO IS ON WANE AT MOMENT AND ALGERIANS THERE FORE PLAYING THINGS IN LOW KEY. LOME MINISTERIAL SHOULD BE GOOD INDICATOR OF HOW SITUATION STANDS.

- C. MIDDLE EAST: AGAIN, ALGERIANS WILL ATTEMPT TO APPEAR RADICAL BUT WILL BE RELUCTANT TO INVOLVE THEMSELVES. THEIR UNWILLINGNESS TO BECOME INVOLVED IN LEBANESE PROBLEM HAS DRAWN CRITICISM FROM RADICAL PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS.
- D. KOREA: CLOSE GOA TIES WITH NORTH KOREA MAKE IT VIRTUAL CERTAINTY THAT ALGERIAN SUPPORT FOR NORTH KOREAN POSITION ON KOREAN QUESTION WILL NOT WAVER.
- E. ON ECONOMIC ISSUES, WE BELIEVE ALGERIANS WILL SUPPORT COMMON FUND FOR COMMODITIES, RESUMED CIEC SESSION AND PAKISTANI PROPOSAL FOR THIRD WORLD ECONOMIC SUMMIT. THEIR POSITION ON ECA CONFERENCE WILL BE SUBJECT OF SEPARATE MESSAGE.
- F. FOR INFORMATION ON ALGERIAN POSITIONS ON DISARMAMENT AND LOS, SEE 76 ALGIERS 3032 AND ALGIERS 0179 (BOTH NOTAL).

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